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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 5, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GWEN MOORE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord our God, Father of all, at times You seem to be that infinite horizon that the human heart is drawn to. In our desire to establish justice for all and a peaceful landscape where human life and family values may flourish, You draw us upward and onward.

In our work and prayer for this Nation, its protection and its security, You inspire the Members of this Chamber and all Americans to be rooted in the truth and filled with compassion and care, especially for the most vulnerable in our society. Yet each day, holy mystery that You are, You reach out to us in every situation of our lives as individuals and as a Nation.

To the extent that we are able to accept Your holy inspiration and freely offer personal gifts and common resources in response to Your hope and desire for us do we find full satisfaction in the work before us.

Be with us again this day as we aspire with all our hearts to better this Nation and accomplish Your holy will, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SECURE ELECTIONS ACT

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, so far this primary season elections have been conducted in 14 States that still use unauditible voting machines, purely electronic. I have shared in letters to my colleagues information about incidents in a number of States, one where 90 percent of the machines were not functioning in one county when the polls opened; and another State, where results from the internal paper tapes did not match results on the corresponding memory cartridges; another State, where six voting machines in a county had faulty memory cards; in a polling place in Chicago, where no touch screen machines were working; and at a polling place in Atlanta, where only one in five was working.

In counties where there are no paper records verified by their voters, the irregularities cannot be resolved. Machine failures elsewhere would have

prevented voters from voting had back-up paper ballots not been available. Some jurisdictions where paper ballots are required allow voting data to be verified by the voters and then used to confirm the results despite the failure of electronic memory.

There is still time before November to secure our electoral system. The Emergency Assistance for Secure Elections Act, if enacted, will provide localities what they need to do this. Please support this legislation.

FISA

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, it has now been nearly 3 weeks since the Democrat majority allowed the Protect America Act to expire, and we have yet to address the resulting gap in our intelligence. That is 18 days that our intelligence professionals have been denied the information that according to the Director of National Intelligence is needed to keep our country safe.

I believe that most Members on the other side of the aisle share my concern although, sadly, there are others who do not. So, here we are in a political year, working Tuesday through Thursday, and one of the most important pieces of legislation is blocked from this floor. Why? Because it will pass.

In 2001, we asked the telecommunications industry to assist our intelligence experts in tracking terrorist movements, but now an army of trial lawyers are waiting to sue them for their patriotic acts.

It is time the Democrat leadership moves this bill and gives our intelligence community the tools they need to protect America.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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